



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

"How Many People Live in Political Bubbles on Social Media? Evidence from Linked Survey and Twitter Data." By Gregory Eady, et al. *SAGE Open*. Feb. 28, 2019. 21 p.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2158244019832705>

"The news diets of the most liberal and most conservative Americans 'generally [show] more overlap than divergence.' ... These findings refute the simple idea of 'echo chambers in which the majority of people's sources of news are mutually exclusive, and from opposite poles.'... [Researchers] found major differences in media consumption—but also a lot of commonalities.... The researchers also found 'asymmetries in individuals' willingness to venture into cross-cutting spaces, with conservatives more likely to follow media and political accounts classified as left-leaning than the reverse.'... The researchers suspect this crossover is driven in part by the fact that right-wing news outlets tend to be heavy on opinion and light on original news reporting." ([Pacific Standard](#), Mar. 6, 2019).

EDUCATION

Undergraduate Teaching Faculty: The HERI Faculty Survey 2016-2017. By Ellen Bara Stolzenberg, et al. Higher Education Research Institute at University of California, Los Angeles. Feb. 2019. 118 p.

<https://heri.ucla.edu/monographs/HERI-FAC2017-monograph.pdf>

“Women were more likely than men to feel that workplace discrimination is at least somewhat a source of stress (36% versus 18%), with the largest gender gaps seen at public universities. At those institutions, 19% of men and 43% of women said they’re stressed about bias. Also unsurprisingly, white faculty members were less likely to report this kind of stress—some 22% of these respondents versus about half of black and Latino professors and 31% of Asians. Non-Asian and nonwhite men reported higher rates of bias-related stress than do white women. More than half of female professors of color considered discrimination a somewhat or extensive source of stress.”

A Fair Chance: Simple Steps to Strengthen and Diversify the Teacher Workforce. By Hannah Putman, et al. National Council on Teacher Quality. Feb. 2019. 50 p.

https://www.nctq.org/dmsView/A_Fair_Chance

“This report probes sky-high failure rates on teacher licensing tests and asks what must change so that more new teachers can enter classrooms with the knowledge they need to do their jobs well.... [P]olicymakers play a key role in shining a light on the realities of program and candidate pass rates. Preparation programs and states currently have access to pass-rate data that give a more complete picture than what is reported to the federal government. States can make these data public, effectively pulling back the curtain on where some programs are cultivating well-prepared teacher candidates and others are missing the mark. Choosing transparency can elevate and spread effective practices for nurturing a profession-ready elementary teaching workforce.” Cal State Northridge is highlighted for its high pass rate for the California Subject Examinations Test for Teachers (CSET).

EMPLOYMENT

Declining Job Quality in the United States: Explanations and Evidence. Working Paper. By David R. Howell et al. Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Mar. 2019. 93 p.

<https://equitablegrowth.org/working-papers/declining-job-quality-in-the-united-states-explanations-and-evidence/>

“The different explanations for recent trends in job quality we have summarized have sharply different policy implications.... Many of the severe labor market problems that American workers experience today, and will experience in the coming decade, are rooted not in the shortage of jobs, or in the quality of workers themselves, but in the quality of jobs employers offer. The most devastating effects of declining job quality, especially for workers with less than advanced degrees, has been in two dimensions, stagnant or declining real (inflation-adjusted) wages and compensation, and the expansion of insecure nonstandard work arrangements. The rise of low-wage jobs and nonstandard work arrangements has been linked to a large number of social and economic problems, such as family fragmentation, poverty and inequality, and poor individual well-being.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“China and India Lead in Greening of the World through Land-use Management.” By Chi Chen, et al. *Nature Sustainability*, vol. 2 (Feb. 2019) pp. 122-129.

<http://tinyurl.com/ChinaAndIndiaGreeningTheWorld>

Researchers at Boston University have been monitoring satellite images of earth for the purpose of tracking the changes in the planet's surface covered by green leaves. Brazil's losses were found to be mostly related to drought. In some places weather and climate change impacted shifts in foliage. India and China are two locations where policy decisions created the shift. In India, the increased foliage is accompanied by farming practices that are damaging to the environment. In China, the increase in leaf cover “appears to be the result of a massive reforestation effort. It's a government-sponsored attempt to prevent catastrophic dust storms that resulted from earlier deforestation.” (*National Public Radio*, Feb. 14, 2019).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Missing the Mark: Examining the Shortcomings of California's Housing Goals. By Adam Fowler, et al. *Next 10 and Beacon Economics*. Feb 28, 2019. 45 p.

<https://www.next10.org/housing-goals>

“Statewide ... 100 out of 539 cities and counties failed to file even one report tracking their progress in the most recent five years. Statewide, only 26% of the needed housing has received building permits in the most recent period.... [F]ive Southern California cities ... are overbuilding upper-income housing while failing to build any low-income units. On the other hand ... some communities earned the highest marks because their housing goals are too low. For example, Beverly Hills ... only needed to approve three new homes to meet its RHNA [Regional Housing Needs Assessment] goals.... Housing goals need to be aligned more with job growth, the report said ... [and] local zoning rules favoring single-family homes over apartments or condos should be revised to ensure enough housing is built to keep up with growth.” (*OC Register*, Feb. 28, 2019).

HEALTH

“Regional and Traffic-Related Air Pollutants are Associated with Higher Consumption of Fast Food and Trans Fat among Adolescents.” By Zhanghua Chen, et al. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, vol. 109 no. 1 (Dec 2018) 10 p.

<https://academic.oup.com/ajcn/article/109/1/99/5266897?searchresult=1#130305379>

“A new USC study suggests that exposure to traffic pollution during childhood makes adolescents 34% more likely to eat foods high in unhealthy trans fats—regardless of household income, parent education level or proximity to fast-food restaurants.... [R]esearchers used data from 3,100 school-age children who were enrolled in the USC Children's Health Study during 1993-1994 and followed for four to eight years.... Researchers took into account—and used statistical methods to remove—factors such as parental education level, household income of each child participant, the number of fast-food restaurants within a 500-meter buffer zone near school and home, community-level poverty rates and low education rates. Even after that adjustment, the correlation remained strong between childhood exposures to air pollution and increased consumption by adolescents of trans fat and fast foods.” (*USCNews*, Jan. 24, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES

California Community Colleges #RealCollege Survey. By Sara Goldrick-Rab, et al. The Hope Center. Mar. 2019. 27 p.

<https://hope4college.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/RealCollege-CCCCO-Report.pdf>

According to the #RealCollege survey, administered at nearly half of California Community Colleges, “50% of respondents were food insecure in the prior 30 days, 60% of respondents were housing insecure in the previous year, and 19% of respondents were homeless in the previous year.... Rates of basic needs insecurity vary by region and by institution. The highest incidence of basic needs insecurity is found in the Northern Coastal, Northern Inland, and Greater Sacramento regions of California. In contrast, rates of basic needs insecurity are far lower, albeit still substantial, in the South Central region of the state, which includes Santa Barbara.”

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